

## ABSTRACT

An alignment detection system is disclosed for determining whether a modulated illumination field in an imaging system employing an illumination modulator is misaligned. The alignment detection system includes a modulator adjustment unit for providing a test pattern on the illumination modulator, a detector for receiving a modulated illumination field from the illumination modulator, a sampling unit for determining at least two sample values ( $A$  and  $C$ ) for each of two areas of the modulated illumination field respectively, and an evaluation unit for determining whether the value  $|A - C|$  is greater than a threshold value.